

many distinguished persons and favourers of works of this class. We invite the Architect, Engineer, Landscape Gardener, Master Builder, Manufacturer, in common or private, and proprietors generally, Clubs of Works, Foremen, and Workmen, to avail themselves of the ready means of the penny-postage, to aid us by their supporting voices, and by any suggestions they can commit to paper. A Supplement will be issued with a subsequent impression of the Precursor (without increase of price), and in that Supplement our correspondence, and additional advertisements will appear; we, therefore, scarcely need say that the more promptly our friends reply to the invitation the better.

It now remains for us to say something of the peculiar character proposed to be given to the "Builder." The Prospectus, which serves as the basis of this exposition, sets forth that the trade designs and descriptions will be accompanied by illustrations and diagrams; that is, we shall supply drawings, to render clearer the accounts we may give of mechanical inventions and processes; drawings of ornament, or enrichment in Plaster-work, Painting, Sculpture, Carving, Iron, and other metal; drawings of Mouldings, and Moulded work, for the Carpenter, Mason, and Bricklayer; drawings of construction, in roofs, floors, trusses, and framing, hand-railings, &c., centering of arches and groining; drawings of Buildings, both ancient and modern; plans, elevations, sections, and details; drawings of Architectural orders and styles; drawings for instruction in perspective, geometry, and the like; and, occasionally, coloured printing, in such matters as pertain to painting and staining.

We shall also give patterns for the paper-hanger and upholsterer, and designs for furniture; and a comprehensive range of constructive and ornamental design suited to that immense territory of British pre-eminence, the Iron-Industry and its workshops; as connected with these, we come to that creative and directing science, Civil Engineering, and here drawings of constructed works, of Engines and Machinery, will have a prominent place, accompanying this descriptive treatise and essays.

From this enumeration it must be evident that a large space will be devoted to the sciences in the nature of connected and consecutive essays; another part to the record of progress in the Building Art; and a third to news relating to Building and Builders.

Reviews and notices of publications intended or likely to be useful to Builders, will also be given, and biographical sketches of eminent men connected with science and the arts. These separate heads, together with correspondence and inquiries, will constitute the peculiarities of our Journal, and the remaining space will assume the aspect of the general weekly press—home and foreign news; digest of Parliamentary reports; political opinions of the leading Journals; dramatic notices; general literary reviews; police and law reports; markets, and advertisements.

So ample is the field before us, that there can be no lack of matter or subjects; our business will be to cull the choicest for the literary banquet of our friends. Much that is valuable we hope and look for in the shape of correspondence; one of the chief merits of "The Builder" being, that it is a direct and fitting medium for conveying instruction from the liberal and enlightened of every department—a free exchange of knowledge—which we anticipate may result in mutual good service to all.

WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM.

We have selected the portraiture of this illustrious man, whose fame lives in national works, as the first wherewith to embellish our GALLERY of ANCESTRORS—a man who was eminent, not only as an architect, but as a liberal patron of the

medieval form to the taste of education, and when institutions still flourish among the proud-ness in the land. "More there is," says Bishop Loe, in his life of Wykeham, "who have felt the influence of his liberality, or who are actually members of his bounty."

It is rarely that instances approaching in interest to that of our subject present themselves; of successful talent we have many, but they are limited to its more exercise for ordinary reward; others, where ambition and ostentation, as in the case of Wolsey, stimulated to a patronage of great works, while in that of Wykeham, we have a memorable example of true nobility of mind, arising from humble origin to the most elevated stations in church and state, and fulfilling its duties by an active exercise of all the kindred virtues.

William of Wykeham was born at the village of that name in Hampshire, in the year 1324, of a reputable but poor parents, whose deficiency of means to afford him education was supplied by the generous intervention of Nicholas Uvedale, lord of the manor of Wykeham, and constable of Winchester Castle, then one of the great offices of the kingdom. After going through the course of study afforded by the school at Winchester, we find him officiating as secretary to Uvedale, and subsequently executing commissions of trust as attorney for Edyngton, Bishop of Winchester, his immediate predecessor in that see, in whose service he appears at that time to have been engaged.

The piety, diligence, and early acquirements of Wykeham had recommended him to the notice of many patrons, both lay and ecclesiastical, and paved the way for his introduction to that of the reigning monarch, Edward III., and of his son, the renowned Black Prince; he had already entered the subordinate ranks of the clergy, and the fitness of his choice was confirmed in after times by the dignities he attained to; that elevation was, however, preceded by the execution of works which have stamped his fame as an Architect.

It is natural that we should ask, how was this talent in architecture acquired? We find no account of the preparation or training, beyond that of the general knowledge he had gained at the school of Winchester, aided by the intuitive genius and taste proper to comprehensive intellectual powers. No record exists of his having studied at either of the universities, and if it had been so, the regard and confidence of the King must be attributed to acquirements very superior to those at that time current at Oxford or Cambridge, where theological controversy was the leading and absorbing theme. We are told, indeed, that Wykeham had studied "arithmetic, mathematics, divinity, and, above all, the canon and civil law;" and we see no reason to the contrary. The school of Winchester, a city then second to none in the kingdom in splendour and opulence, would scarcely be deficient of teachers in these courses of study; in the mode, and according to the then understanding of their relative uses and value.

It is, upon the whole, probable that Wykeham gave the first proofs of skill as an Architect in the extension and repair of Winchester Castle, during his employment by Nicholas Uvedale. That it was a fortress of considerable extent and consequence, history abundantly proves; and it continued so down to the period of the civil strife between the adherents of Charles I. and the Parliamentary armies; but whatever may have been the extent or description of building previously executed by him, it led to his appointment, by patent, dated May 10th, 1356, of Clerk of all the King's works in the manors of Hensley and Yestminster; and by a second patent, under date 30th October of the same year, he was made Surveyor of all the King's works at the Castle and Park of Windsor; and subsequently of all the royal castles south of Trent.

In these capacities he was furnished with extensive powers; such as directing the issue of the King's writ to the sheriffs of counties, requiring them to impress workmen, who were compelled to labour at fixed wages; to purvey and apply all material fitted for building; to hold courts for pleas of trespass and misdemeanours; and to inquire of the King's liberties and rights within his demesne lands. The prelude to the erection of Windsor Castle was the assembling of 360 impressed workmen, by force, from nine adjoining counties, in addition to those voluntarily engaged; the original Norman building was levelled, and on its site, under the eye of a warlike monarch who delighted in embattled towers and gorgeous halls fitted for the display of chivalric institutions, was reared this far-famed fortress and palace of our kings.

Windsor Castle occupied from 1213 to twelve years of continued labour, and comprised the King's palace; the great hall of St. George; buildings for various purposes, on the east and south sides of the castle, and a large

the tower of St. George, the residence of the king and council, in the north ward, with the church, and the walls, towers, and gates. Many parts of the original building remain, but the ages of nearly five hundred years, frequent repairs, the various growths and alterations required to meet the conveniences or taste of successive kings, most of whom have expended immense sums in real or fancied improvements, have, in a great degree, obliterated a plan and style which was, in Castellar Architecture, the perfection of the fourteenth century.

His second work was the Castle of Queenborough, in the Isle of Sheppey, which, from the lowness of the site, and nature of the foundations, required unusual skill in the Architect. It was commenced in 1361, and completed in about six years, when the King, holding his court there, made the town a free borough, naming it Queenborough, in honour of his Queen Philippa. Of this structure no part remains; but its position and extent are ascertained by the moat which surrounded it. There can be no doubt this was one of the principal castles of the kingdom, designed both as a means of defence against invasion, and as a point for the assembling of fleets and armies for offensive purposes. We are told of this building, that it was "large, strong, and magnificent," a fitting residence for royalty, and one of the strongholds of the realm; and its importance may be estimated by the rank of its constables, who were, in the reign of Edward III., John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; Richard II., Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford; Henry IV., John Cornwall, Baron Vanebo; Henry V., Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham; Edward IV., George, Duke of Clarence, &c. The last repairs were done in the reign of Henry VIII., 1536.

Pending these works, Wykeham grew into high favour with his royal master, and church preferments were heaped upon him with a lavish hand; he filled also in succession the offices of Secretary of State, Keeper of the Privy Seal, and Chancellor of England; and upon the death of Edyngton, Bishop of Winchester, in 1366, he succeeded to that see, one of the richest and most influential in the kingdom. With his career as a statesman, we can have little to do in this sketch, but we may be permitted to notice that it was replete with great and disinterested actions. Prosperity on brilliant had, however, the hour of adversity, but which only served to place in bolder relief the virtues of the Christian and the dignity of the man. In the dotage of Edward III., charged of malversation, in the execution of his high offices, were preferred against the Bishop of Winchester, and the investigation of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who had always manifested an irreconcilable jealousy of his influence with the king. This proceeding was followed by an arbitrary sequestration of the temporalities of the bishop, and he retired to the monastery of Waverley, and subsequently to the Abbey of Waverley, near Farnham, amid the universal regrets of the nation. The asperity of a character so singularly exempt from the besetting sin of avarice, and its twin vices, peculation and concealment, could not, however, be long sustained; and at the end of seven months he was happily restored to the means of carrying forward magnificent designs for the benefit of posterity.

From this period Wykeham seems, as much as possible, to have withdrawn himself from the burthen of secular affairs, although we find him again Chancellor in the unsettled reign of Richard II., but which office he took the earliest occasion to resign. Long and faithful services to the state had enabled him to repose; but there was no cessation in the activity of a mind fraught with benevolent purposes. Possessed of great wealth, he seems to have considered himself but as a steward intrusted with a useful application of it, and he derived, with so much judgment as human foresight is permitted to exercise, the establishments we are now to mention.

With the year 1373 began the formation of a school at Oxford, that of Winchester having much earlier been taken under his especial care; at each, masters were provided, and scholars, to the number of seventy, lodged and boarded at his sole charge. These were, however, but preliminary steps to the great and original plans contemplated, namely, the founding of colleges at Oxford and Winchester, with buildings, masters, and suitable appointments, and a perpetual maintenance for two hundred scholars, who, while receiving the advantage of liberal support, were trained from elementary learning through the whole circle of the sciences. So costly was this undertaking, that no individual, with a single exception, has had the means or generosity to emulate the example. This occurred in the person of King Henry VI., when the college of St. Edmund at Cambridge was founded